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COUNTRY Colombia

DATE DISTR. 27 Jan 1949

SUBJECT X National Labor Congress of the CTC

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**SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.**

1. The X National Labor Congress of the Confederacion de Trabajadores de Colombia (CTC - Confederation of Colombian Workers) is scheduled to be held during the last of January 1949 in Bogota. At this Congress a new Directorate will be elected to replace the former one, which was never officially recognized by the Colombian Government. [REDACTED] It will be recalled that members of the Communist Party of Colombia, under the leadership of Gilberto Vieira White, were successful in obtaining important positions on the Directorate at the IX Congress, which allowed the Party a decisive influence in the Colombian labor movement. The followers of Augusto Duran, leader of the Communist Workers' Party, were overwhelmingly defeated.)
2. Efforts are being made by various factions to gain control of the CTC Directorate at the X Congress. The Communist Workers' Party hopes to recover part of their former influence. Contacts are presently being made by Duran among labor organizations in the Caribbean coast area where some of the largest syndicates affiliated with the CTC are located. Jorge E. Bayona, Treasurer of this Party, is also contacting leaders of syndicates in Bogota.
3. The Communist Party of Colombia hopes to maintain its present influence on the Directorate through the re-election of Pedro J. Abella, Victor J. Merchán, and Carlos Arturo Aguirre, all Party members. This Party is believed to have a certain advantage inasmuch as Pedro Abella is the present Secretary General of the CTC. The outcome of the Congress is considered to be of extreme importance to the future of this Party.
4. Conservative elements in the country are also attempting to exert their influence at this congress, especially in eliminating Communists from the Directorate. For this purpose, various syndicates affiliated with the Union de Trabajadores Colombianos (UTC - Union of Colombian Workers), which under existing labor laws is not officially recognized by the Government, are contacting syndicates affiliated with the CTC. They reportedly can also count on help from the Ministry of Labor, under whose auspices the Congress will be held.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 1 October 1973 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Date: 2008

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